

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A partial denture in the form of an arch for restoring a tooth or teeth which are missing on one side of a dental arch of a patient comprising at least one denture tooth on one side of said arch, said at least one denture tooth being held by a resin material, said resin material being supported by a metal frame work of a metal casting, wherein said metal casting further comprises a linguoplate comprising

a lingual portion, said lingual portion having a shape conformable to a shape of a lingual surface of teeth and alveolar mucosa from a tooth adjacent to said missing tooth or teeth to another tooth on another side of said dental arch of said patient for intimately contacting said lingual surface of said teeth and said alveolar mucosa, the linguoplate extends from near one end of the arch to near another end of the arch, ~~and the partial denture does not require an elastic retainer strip in front of existing front teeth of a patient;~~

a tissue portion extending from said lingual portion and having a margin 3-10 mm away from said lingual portion, said tissue portion having a shape conformable to a shape of a portion of a rear gum tissue connecting to said teeth and said alveolar mucosa, so that there is no gap between said teeth and said portion of said rear gum tissue not covered by said linguoplate, and wherein said tissue portion further comprises a projection at said margin and on a side thereof facing said rear gum tissue, so that there is a space between said tissue portion and said portion of said rear gum tissue, when said partial denture is put on said dental arch of said patient; and

said metal casting further comprises rests provided on said lingual portion of said

linguoplate for engaging prepared notches on teeth of said patient.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Original) The partial denture according to claim 1 further comprising at least one denture tooth on another side of said arch for restoring a tooth or teeth which are missing on another side of said dental arch of said patient, which are held by a resin material supported by another metal frame work of said metal casting, wherein said another tooth on another side of said dental arch of said patient is a tooth adjacent to said missing tooth or teeth on another side of said dental arch of said patient.

4. (Original) The partial denture according to claim 2, wherein said lingual portion of said linguoplate has a sharp occlusal edge approaching to an occlusal surface of said teeth of said patient, and said lingual portion of said linguoplate does not interfere an occlusion of said teeth of said patient, wherein said projection at said margin of said tissue portion of said linguoplate has a height of 0.5-3 mm.

5. (Original) The partial denture according to claim 2, wherein said linguoplate contains no bar or strap connecting both sides of said arch.

6. (Original) The partial denture according to claim 3, wherein said linguoplate contains no bar or strap connecting both sides of said arch.

7. (Original) The partial denture according to claim 1, wherein said metal casting further comprises one or more clasps for engaging with one or more teeth of said patient.

8. (Original) The partial denture according to claim 5, wherein said partial denture is for use in the upper dental arch of said patient.

9. (Original) The partial denture according to claim 6, wherein said partial denture is for use in the upper dental arch of said patient.

10. (Original) A method of restoring a tooth or teeth which are missing in the upper dental arch of a patient comprising aligning a partial denture as claimed in claim 5 with the upper dental arch of said patient, and putting said partial denture on the upper dental arch of said patient, so that said lingual portion of said linguoplate intimately contacts said lingual surface of said teeth and said alveolar mucosa, said tissue portion of said linguoplate covers said rear gum tissue connecting to said teeth and said alveolar mucosa, said rests of said linguoplate are engaged with said notches on said teeth of said patient, and said missing tooth or teeth are restored by said at least one denture tooth, wherein there is a space between said tissue portion and said portion of said rear gum tissue.

11. (Original) A method of restoring teeth which are missing in the upper dental arch of a patient comprising aligning a partial denture as claimed in claim 6 with the upper dental arch of said patient, and putting said partial denture on the upper dental arch of said patient, so that said lingual portion of said linguoplate intimately contacts said lingual surface of said teeth and said alveolar mucosa, said tissue portion of said linguoplate covers said rear gum tissue connecting to said teeth and said alveolar mucosa, said rests of said linguoplate are engaged with said notches on said teeth of said patient, and said missing teeth are restored by said at least one denture tooth on one side of said arch and by said at least one denture tooth on another side of said arch of said partial denture, wherein there is a space between said tissue portion and said

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portion of said rear gum tissue.